

## Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L OECD PARIS 02359

STADIS//////////

EXDIS

FOR UNDERSECRETARY ROBINSON FROM BOSWORTH

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS; ENRG, OECD

SUBJECT: NEW LIST OF TOPICS FOR ENERGY COMMISSION

REF: STATE 17719

L. I AGREE THAT WE SHOULD EXPLORE WITH G-19 REPS IN ENERGY COMMISSION AND OTHER INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES THE PRINCIPLE OF AGREEMENT ON AN OBJECTIVE LIST OF TOPICS AROUND WHICH TO CONSTRUCT THE COMMISSION'S AGENDA AND WORK PROGRAM. I SUGGEST WE PROCEED TO CLEAR LIST CONTAINED REFTEL WITH OTHER WASHINGTON AGENCIES SO THAT WE CAN USE IT IN DISCUSSIONS ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE CO-CHAIRMEN'S MEETING WITH SAUDI CO-CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS AS WELL AS DURING IEA DISCUSSIONS.

2. HOWEVER, I THINK WE MUST ALSO BE PREPARED FOR CONTINGENCY THAT G-19 COUNTRIES WILL NOT BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE AGENDA ON BASIS OF OUR "OBJECTIVE" LIST. THIS WOULD, IN EFFECT, REQUIRE THEM TO ADMIT, AT LEAST BY IMPLICATION, THAT THEIR LIST IS NOT OBJECTIVE, AND I SUSPECT THEY MAY BE UNWILLING TO DO THAT. I WOULD FEAR, THEREFORE, THAT WE MIGHT INEVITABLY FIND THAT WE ARE NE-  
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GOTIATING ON SOME MIDDLE GROUND BETWEEN G-19 LIST AND OUR

OBJECTIVE LIST. THUS, I BELIEVE WE SHOULD CONTINUE, AS NOTED REFTEL, TO PREPARE AND OBTAIN INTER-AGENCY CLEARANCE ON ANOTHER TYPE OF LIST DESIGNED TO SERVE AS NON-COMBATIVE COUNTER TO G-19 LIST WHICH WE COULD USE IF NECESSARY.

3. ONE POSSIBLE WAY OUT OF A PROTRACTED DISCUSSION OVER AGENDA DURING JOINT COMMISSION MEETING (WHICH WOULD BE COUNTER TO OUR DESIRE TO GET OFF TO SMOOTH LOW-KEY START) WOULD BE TO AGREE ON BASIC AGENDA -- SIMILAR FOR EXAMPLE TO IEA DRAFT AGENDA -- WITH SIMPLE HEADLINES OF MAJOR SUBJECTS. EACH GROUP (OR INDIVIDUAL COUNTRIES) COULD THEN, IF THEY WISHED, PLACE ANNOTATIONS DETAILING EACH HEADLINED TOPIC. THE G-19 LIST AND ANY LIST THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES MIGHT WISH TO TABLE IN THE COMMISSION COULD THEN BE PLACED ON AGENDA AS SUCH ANNOTATIONS. I WOULD VIEW THIS, HOWEVER, AS A FALL BACK POSITION TOWARD WHICH WE MIGHT MOVE IN THE FIRST COMMISSION MEETING ITSELF.

4. IN THE MEANTIME I WILL PROCEED IN ACCORDANCE WITH MY CURRENT INSTRUCTIONS TO SOUND OUT THE SAUDI CO-CHAIRMAN AND OTHERS ON THIS QUESTION. AFTER THESE DISCUSSIONS, WE CAN TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AS TO HOW WE SHOULD PROCEED ON THIS KEY QUESTION.  
TURNER

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